

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6. This sheet, which includes Fig. 6, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 6.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Substitute specification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.125

A substitute specification is attached herewith. Changes to the specification are intended to correct minor informalities. Thus, no new matter is added to the specification.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Claims 1-13 are pending; Claims 3-5 and 7-8 are amended; Claims 9-13 are added; and Claims 1-2 stand allowed. Support for the amendments is found in the originally filed claims and therefore, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action Figure 6 was objected to, Claims 4-8 were objected to; Claim 4 was rejected under § 112, first paragraph; and Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tricoli et al. (U.S. 3,773,644 hereinafter Tricoli).

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

With regard to the objection to the drawings, Figure 6 is amended to include the label "Related Art."

In reply to the objection to the claims, Claims 4-8 have been addressed by amending Claims 4-5 and 7-8 to be in proper multiple dependent form. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claim 6 be withdrawn since Claim 6 was not a multiple dependent claim as originally filed. Therefore, no amendment to Claim 6 is made.

Claims 9, 10, and 11 are added to recite features analogous to Claims 1, 2, and 3 respectively, without invoking 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph.

Amendments to the specification are made to correct grammatical errors. Thus, no new matter is added.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 Second Paragraph

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claim 4 for insufficient antecedent basis. In reply, Claim 4 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the electric insulating material and the gas sealing material.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Amended Claim 3 is directed to an electrolytic apparatus for molten salt disposed on an electrolytic cell to electrolyze an electrolytic bath consisting of a mixed molten salt. The electrolytic apparatus includes a first heat exchanging means to heat and/or cool an electrolytic cell body. Additionally, the apparatus includes an electric insulating material and a gas sealing material disposed between a support member and a cover member in the electrolytic cell for simultaneous electric insulation and gas sealing.

The applied reference Tricoli discloses an electrolytic cell for the production of chlorine having a box made of insulating material located above the cell cover.¹ Additionally Tricoli has a seal located below the cell cover.²

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Tricoli discloses all of the elements of Claim 3. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 3 is distinguishable over Tricoli as this reference fails to disclose an electrolytic apparatus comprising an electric insulating material and a gas sealing material disposed between a support member part and a cover member for simultaneous electric insulation and gas sealing. The Official Action identifies 7 and 12 of Tricoli as the electric insulating material and gas sealing material respectively. However, 7 of Tricoli is a stuffing box made of insulating material located above the cell cover 3.³ Tricoli neither teaches or suggests that the stuffing box may be placed between a support member and a cover member. Further, the stuffing box 7 is not located between the same jacket 2 and cover 3 as the gas seal 12. Therefore, Tricoli does not disclose an electrolytic apparatus comprising an electric insulating material and a gas sealing material disposed between a support member and a cover member.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

New Claims 9 and 10 recite features analogous to allowed Claims 1 and 2 respectively, without invoking § 112, sixth paragraph. Support for Claims 9 and 10 is found in the originally filed claims and therefore, no new matter is added. Claims 9 and 10 are patentable for substantially the same reasons as the patentability of Claims 1 and 2.

¹ See Tricoli, column 2, lines 63-66.

² See Tricoli, column 3, lines 28-29.

³ See Tricoli, column 2, lines 47-52.

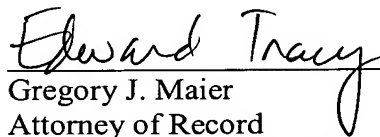
New Claim 11 recites features analogous to Claim 3 without invoking § 112, sixth paragraph. Support for Claim 11 is found in the originally filed Claim 3 and Figure 3. Therefore, no new matter is added. Claim 11 is patentable over Tricoli for substantially the same reasons as the patentability of Claim 3.

New Claims 12 and 13 recite features canceled from Claims 7 and 8 respectively. Support for Claims 12 and 13 is found in the originally filed claims. Therefore, no new matter is added. Claims 12 and 13 are patentable for the same reasons as the patentability of Claims 1 and 2, and the reasons stated for the patentability of Claim 3.

Consequently, in view of the present Response, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-13 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Attachments: Substitute Specification with Markings
Substitute Specification without Markings

Edward W. Tracy
Registration No. 47,998